



Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District



WINTER EDITION

JANUARY 2016



26032-C Newt Road
Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059

Conservation Information

2015 Agriculture Awareness Days

Third graders in Stanly County proved to be eager and ready to learn about agriculture at the 2015 Agriculture Awareness Days. Over 700 students attended the event this year. Having to move the exhibits indoors because of rain was no deterrent to students nor volunteers. Stations included soybeans, corn, wheat, forestry, beekeeping, local foods, soils, aquatics, and livestock. The three day event was held October 27-29 at the Agri Civic Center for public, private and home school students.



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District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Supervisor
June Mabry	Supervisor
W. Chester Lowder	Advisor

District Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public.

District and NRCS Staff

Clint Brooks	Cost Share Technician
Rita Little	Admin/Education Coordinator
Shauntae Britt	Supervisory District Conservationist
Chris Childers	Conservation Planner
Grayson Sarif	Soil Conservationist
Lin Taylor	Civil Engineer Technician



Conservation Education

Each year the District and the NC Association of Soil and Water sponsors a 5th grade poster contest, 6th grade Essay and 6th grade PowerPoint® Contest. Submission deadline is January 15th. This year's theme is "We All Live in a Watershed."

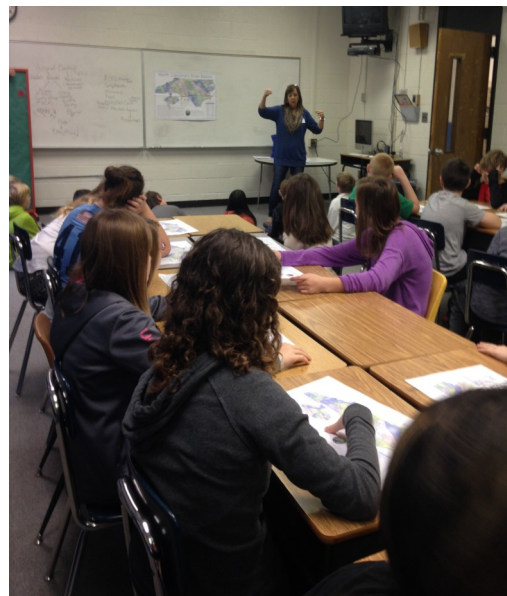
With the help of an EnviroScape® model, many students have learned the importance of watershed management and protection. They also saw the effects of point and non-point source pollution, hazardous materials, sediment erosion, and runoff. All of which affects water quality and may determine the health of the ecosystems within the watershed. All presentations and demonstrations correlate with the NC Essential Standards for Earth/Environmental Science.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.



The EnviroScape® is a three dimensional, interactive learning tool that helps students make a visual connection between land use and water quality. Several elementary and middle school teachers took advantage of the watershed demonstration for their students. For more information on the contests or environmental education opportunities for your classroom or civic group contact Rita Little, Education Coordinator, at 704-986-3059 or email her at rlittle@stanlycountync.gov.



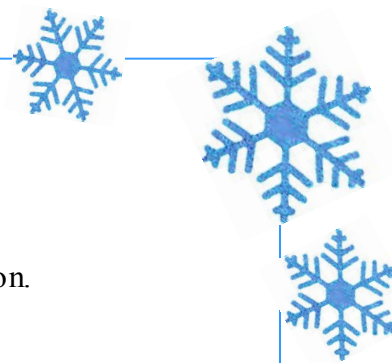
Stanly Soil & Water Welcomes New Cost Share Technician

Congratulations are in order for Clint Brooks, new Cost Share Technician for Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District. Clint is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology. He was employed by NC State University before taking a position with Mecklenburg County as a Natural Resource Specialist. We are fortunate to have someone with his qualifications.

His favorite pastimes include hunting, fishing, trapping and farming. He and his wife Kasey reside in Locust.

Clint can be reached at 704-986-3059 or by email at cbrooks@stanlycountync.gov





Annual Tree Seedling Sale

Stanly SWCD's annual tree seedling sale begins Wednesday, February 3rd 8:30 am - 4:30 pm daily at the Stanly SWCD office until sold out.

Varieties available:

White Pine (*Pinus Strobus L.*)

Soft blue-green needles 3-5" long. Fast pyramid growth with excellent needle retention. It can be used as a specimen, accent, screen or windbreak.

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus Taeda L.*)

One of the fastest growing of the southern pines. Good as a screen in the early years and timber at maturity. Excellent for reforestation.

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Very narrow and compact. Can grow up to 40 feet tall. Leaves are scaly and green, and very short. It is a common coniferous species growing on a variety of sites throughout the eastern half of the US.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

A slow growing tree of moderate size (25 to 50 feet). It is sometimes planted for its edible fruit and is valued as an ornamental. Fruiting typically begins when the tree is about 6 years old.

Prices:	White Pine	\$2.25 + tax/ doz.	Eastern Red Cedar	\$4.10 + tax / doz.
	Loblolly	\$2.25 + tax / doz.	Persimmon	\$1.10 + tax each

No-till Drill Rate Changes Effective January 1, 2016

The rate for renting the District No-till Drill will increase from \$10.00 per acre to \$15.00 per acre for Stanly County rentals.

Out-of-County rental will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per acre.

Also, we are now required to charge NC State and Stanly County sales and use tax unless you have a NC Dept. of Revenue Exemption ID card.



NRCS Rolls Out New Service Delivery Model

Effective January 1, 2016 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will shift to a new Service Delivery Model. In contrast to the current model, the new Service Delivery Model will handle workload with a "team" approach. The new team will be responsible for six counties that include Stanly, Montgomery, Anson, Union, Mecklenburg and Cabarrus County and will consist of five employees. The number of employees that is needed per team was determined by the amount of workload within the counties. Currently the team consist of Shauntae Britt, Supervisory District Conservationist; Chris Childers, Conservation Planner; and Grayson Sarif, Soil Conservation-ist. In the near future there will be two new employees hired to fulfill the needs of the team.

Any applications for Federal Funds will be ranked against all applications for each of the aforementioned six counties in their respective funding pools.

County Committee Advisor Recommendations

The Stanly County Farm Service Agency makes every effort to ensure that farmers understand and participate in our farm programs to the fullest extent possible. Advisors play an important role on the local farmer elected committee. Beyond bringing knowledge and expertise from underrepresented and under-served communities, Advisors can ensure that producers and the general public understand FSA programs. Working with various communities in the County, Advisors can promote a good working relationship between the various USDA agencies in the County. In addition, advisors participate in hearings and voice their opinions regarding FSA policy to ensure those FSA programs are delivered in a fair and equitable manner.

Please consider submitting a recommendation for consideration. Nominees should be active in farming or interested and knowledgeable about farming in this area. Please submit your recommendation by January 20, 2016. The Stanly County FSA Committee will compile nominations and forward them to the North Carolina Farm Service Agency Committee for review. Upon selection, Advisors will begin service in March 2016.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years. Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.



FSA Deadlines & Sign Ups

January 15—small grain crop reports due

February 26—CRP general sign up ends

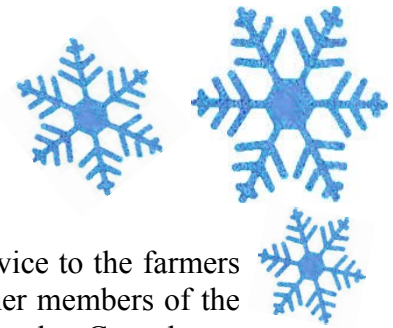
USDA Non-Discrimination Policy The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).

FSA Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Chris Furr for being elected to a three year term on the Stanly County Committee beginning January 1, 2016. Chris will represent the Almond, Endy and Furr Townships.

We wish to thank out-going committee member Curtis Furr for his nine years of service to the farmers of Stanly County. We will miss Curtis, but look forward to working with Chris. Other members of the committee are John Pickler, Gerald McSwain, and advisors Betty McSwain and Christopher Carrothers.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.



Producers are Reminded to Complete NASS Crop Surveys

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices are currently completing 2015 small grain yield surveys and will contact growers in December to complete row crop yield surveys. If you are one of the producers contacted to complete a 2015 yield survey, we encourage your participation and cooperation as many USDA agencies including the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) use the NASS yield data for their programs.

FSA uses NASS county yield data for farm credit, conservation, disaster programs, loan, and commodity programs. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, FSA uses the NASS county yield data to calculate Agriculture Risk Coverage – County (ARC-CO) benchmark revenues and current year county revenues. For example, the 2014 NASS county yield, along with the crop's marketing year average price (MYA), are used to determine the county's current year revenue to determine if the county will trigger an ARC-CO payment. An ARC-CO payment is triggered for a county when the current year revenue falls below the guarantee revenue for the crop and crop year. In cases where NASS county yield data is not available, the FSA State Committee must determine a county yield using RMA yield data or the best available yield data, including assigning a county yield using neighboring county yields from NASS or RMA.

Any information that producers provide to NASS is kept confidential and protected by federal law. NASS publishes only aggregate-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports will be available at www.nass.usda.gov.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.



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www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Stanly SWCD would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter. Without their financial support, this publication would not be possible. Please patronize our sponsors whenever possible. If you would consider helping us cut our production cost by viewing this newsletter on our website, www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water, please call 704-986-3059 or email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov to be put on our email list.

 Crop Production Services Billy R. Lowder Facility Manager www.cpsagu.com Office: 704-982-8496 Fax: 704-982-8500 Cell: 704-791-3589	 BANK of NORTH CAROLINA Main Office: 155 W. South St., Ph. 982-9184 West Stanly: Hwy. 27, Locust, Ph. 888-4431	 ENTERPRISE RENDERING COMPANY DEAD FARM ANIMALS REMOVED HORSES, PONIES, MULES, HOGS USED RESTAURANT COOKING OIL PHONE 485-3018 28821 BETHLEHEM CHURCH RD. Oakboro, NC 28129 Phone 704-463-1331						
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 STANLY COUNTY FARM BUREAU 704-982-0113	B.B. Oil, Inc. Diesel - Home Heating Oil - Kerosene Tires - Batteries - Auto Accessories Home A/C, Furnace & Heat Pump Service Auto/Motorcycle Inspections Hydraulic Hoses 128 Hwy 49 N PO Box 185 Richfield, NC 704-463-7543	 Newport Landowner Services Inc. Complete Reforestation Management Site Preparation - Tree Planting - Herbicide Application Agricultural Services - Land and Estate Management Dale Newport 44558 N.C. Hwy. 8 New London, NC 28127 Home (704) 463-1226 Mobile (704) 985-5437 FAX (704) 463-7589						
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